

Remarks

I have carefully reviewed the Office Action of June 12, 2008 by Examiner Underwood.

In the loader embodiments disclosed in the above-identified application, the control system 24, including the control handle 26 that controls forward and reverse drive of the loader, is located on a substantially planar, upwardly facing, top wall at the rear of the frame. In addition, the control system does not extend rearwardly beyond or past the rear edge of the top wall. This allows the walking operator to position himself or herself substantially immediately behind the rear edge of the top wall. This subject matter is now set forth in claim 2 as amended.

In the walk version of Morrison's implement, Morrison uses a pair of handle bars carrying various controls 104 with the handle bars extending rearwardly from the frame of the implement. This ends up positioning the operator well to rear of the frame of the implement as shown in Fig. 1.

I do not agree with the Examiner that Morrison would teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to redesign the stand on loaders of record into walk behind loaders. But, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were to attempt to redesign the Toro Dingo Tire-Over-Rubber Tracks unit or the Finn Skid Steer unit from a stand on to a walk behind unit as taught by Morrison, Morrison only teaches positioning the operator well to the rear of the frame behind a pair of elongated handle bars. Morrison does not teach placing the operational controls on a substantially planar, upwardly facing, top wall at the rear of the loader or keeping those controls forwardly of the rear edge of the top wall so that the operator can be located substantially immediately behind the rear edge of the top wall. Accordingly, claim 2 as amended herein, along with dependent claims 3-5, are allowable over the combinations of references set forth in the Office Action of June 12, 2008.

Claims 7-12 have been canceled to expedite the prosecution of this application. Accordingly, this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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